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Message Text

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20
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /048 W
---------- 097355
R 180736Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6126
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBG SY NEW DELHI

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BEIRUT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, EAIR, BG
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXPANSION BY BANGLADESH'S NATIONAL AIRLINE

1. HEDAYET AHMED, RECENTLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF BANGLADESH BIMAN (BB), INFORMED EMBOFF OF TENTATIVE EXPANSION PLANS FOR BB, THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL AIRLINE. AHMED SAID THAT BB NOW HAS LANDING RIGHTS IN CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, DUBAI, LONDON AND BANGKOK (BB DOES NOT PRESENTLY SERVE BOMBAY) AND IS NEGOTIATING FOR LANDING RIGHTS AT FRANKFORT, SINGAPORE AND/OR HONG KONG. AHMED IS PLANNING TO INAUGURATE BB SERVICE TO BOMBAY LATE IN 1975. IF BB OBTAINS LANDING RIGHTS IN FRANKFORT AND IN EITHER SINGAPORE OR HONG KONG AND BEGINS SERVICE TO BOMBAY, AHMED POSTULATES THAT AN ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WILL BE REQUIRED. AHMED FEELS THAT BB WILL BE IN THE MARKET FOR A USED BOEING 707-300 SERIES ALL-PASSENGER CONFIGURATION BY THE END OF 1975 IF FAVORABLE FINANCING CAN BE ARRANGED.

2. COMMENT. AHMED'S PROGNOSIS IS FULL OF "IFS" OF WHICH THE MOST TROUBLESOME IS THE LACK OF FINANCING. BUT, ACCORDING TO AHMED, BB'S PRESENT INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS
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ARE PROFITABLE AND BB HAS AN OVER-ABUNDANCE OF QUALIFIED

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707 PILOTS, SO IF THE LANDING RIGHTS ARE OBTAINED, THE
PURCHASE OF ANOTHER AIRCRAFT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.
UNDOUBTEDLY, SOME BDG OFFICIALS WOULD VIEW AN ADDITIONAL
AIRCRAFT AND ADDITIONAL ROUTES AS AN ENCHANCEMENT OF
BANGLADESH'S PRESTIGE AND THUS TEMPTING FOR OTHER THAN
ECONOMIC REASONS.
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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